



News from **SALEM COUNTY** Office of Public Information

Mr. Earl R. Gage
Salem County Administrator/Clerk of the Board
Office Phone: (856) 935-7510 ext. 8614

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 28, 2011

DISCOVERING YOU'RE U.S. Itinerant Artist Emile Klein Speaks in Salem

(SALEM, NJ)—Freeholder Beth Timberman, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Commission, announced that the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission is hosting a program featuring portrait artist Emile Klein in the Old Salem County Courthouse, Thursday evening, December 1, 6:30 – 8 pm. Klein is traveling through all fifty states on a bicycle exploring our country's identity through oral histories and portraiture as part of a project entitled "You're U.S." He is currently sojourning and painting in Salem County.

"Emile is traveling across the country seeking out places and people that exemplify all segments of American society," said Freeholder Timberman. "We are very pleased that he is creating portraits of Salem Countians for his project."

Like America's early traveling artists who traveled from town to town seeking commissions in exchange for room and board, Klein also is traversing the country leaving behind portraits of his hosts. The purpose of the project, however, is much more philosophical. Klein is staying with three families in Salem County before moving on. His New Jersey sojourn comes near the conclusion of the first year of a five-year journey.

"I want to use art as a way to spotlight the lives of all Americans," said Klein, "and through that process promote intergroup recognition and understanding. Everyone is unique and has a story to tell - the more diversity, the better."

Each portrait is accompanied by oral history interviews, which in New Jersey will be linked with Rutgers University's New Jersey Digital Highway project, an on-line statewide repository for New Jersey cultural heritage organizations.

"Emile's presentation on December 1st is designed not only for people to learn about his project and work, but also to offer him an opportunity to hear from local people about what makes Salem County and South Jersey a unique and special place," added Timberman.



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The program, which is open and free to the public, will take place in the historic Old Salem County Courthouse, East Broadway and Market St., Salem. Free parking is available adjacent to the rear of the building in the county parking lot, accessible from Grant St. Also an accomplished pastry chef, Klein is preparing refreshments made with local ingredients for the participants. Information about the project can be found at www.youreus.com; 646-248-2979. Directions are available at www.VisitSalemCountyNJ.com; 856-935-7510 x 8532.